

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03075 011103Z

ACTION H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: SENATOR STONE--MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR STONE MET WITH JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AT 7 A.M. MAY 29 JUST PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR UK AND US. SUBJECTS COVERED INCLUDED JORDANIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, PHOSPHATE, OIL, WEST BANK AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO JORDAN, POTASH AND DEAD SEA DEVELOPMENT PLANS, JORDAN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT, AND PALESTINIANS AND UNRWA ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR RICHARD STONE, ACCOMPANIED BY MESSRS BRYEN AND SCHOCHET, TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR MET WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN EARLY MORNING MAY 29.

3. CONVERSATIONS BEGAN EASILY WITH DISCUSSION OF SOME OF JORDAN MINERAL RESOURCES. CROWN PRINCE DESCRIBED JORDAN'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION COMPLEX, SKETCHED JORDAN ROCK PHOSPHATE PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND TALKED OF JORDAN'S HOPE OF LINKING WITH NEW CROSS-SAUDI ARABIAN PIPELINE (DHAHRAN-YENBO) TO OBTAIN AMMONIA AND NITROGEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03075 011103Z

4. SENATOR ASKED ABOUT OIL. CROWN PRINCE SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION JORDAN IS BEING BOYCOTTED BY SEVEN SISTERS. JORDAN HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR OIL AND BELIEVES THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS. ONE OR TWO WELLS HAD BEEN DRILLED ON WEST BANK WITH SIGNS OF OIL. JORDAN WAS NOW TRYING

TO FOLLOW UP IN EAST BANK WITH SEISMIC SURVEYS AND ADDITIONAL DRILLING, BUT GOING WAS TOUGH. SENATOR SUGGESTED CROWN PRINCE MIGHT CONTACT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM WHICH WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL IN LIBYA; HAD NO GREAT LOVE FOR SEVEN SISTERS; AND WHICH WAS ALSO DEEP IN PHOSPHATE DEVELOPMENT IN FLORIDA.

5. TURNING TO PHOSPHATE, CROWN PRINCE MENTIONED THAT JORDAN WAS PRODUCING MORE AND SELLING IT FOR LESS AND FELT THAT MARKETING WAS A SOFT SPOT. PHOSPHATE PRODUCERS HAD TALKED ABOUT DIVIDING MARKETS BUT THERE WAS NOT MUCH THAT SEEMED TO HELP AND JORDAN SEEMED TO HAVE GOTTEN A POOR SHARE. JORDAN HOPED TO DIVERSIFY TOO BY PRODUCING 120 THOUSAND TONS OF PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZER IN A FEW YEARS AND MAYBE OVER 500 THOUSAND TONS LATER.

6. JORDAN'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WAS BEING HEAVILY TAXED BY GULF AND SAUDI USERS AND SAUDIS HAD RECENTLY TALKED ABOUT HELPING EXPAND DAMASCUS-AMMAN RAILWAY TO WIDE GAUGE AND STARTING A JOINT TRUCKING COMPANY.

7. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO WEST BANK. CROWN PRINCE MADE CLEAR THAT ISRAEL WAS PUTTING NOTHING INTO WEST BANK IN ECONOMIC TERMS AND USING ITS LABOR. JORDAN HAD PUT A GREAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 03075 011103Z

DEAL ITSELF INTO THE AREA BUT THE WEST BANK WAS LAGGING FAR BEHIND IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT COULD ABSORB SOME MORE POPULATION BUT THIS INFLUX WOULD HAVE TO BE PROPPED UP BY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

8. THE PRINCE ALSO DESCRIBED JORDAN PLANS FOR POTASH DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEAD SEA AREA AND A NEW LARGE DAM ON THE YARMOUK. (THE SENATOR AND PARTY SAW BOTH OF THESE PROJECTS ON MAY 30 BY HELICOPTER.)

9. SENATOR AND CROWN PRINCE DISCUSSED UNRWA AND ITS ROLE IN JORDAN AMONG THE PALESTINIANS. SENATOR WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HOW UNRWA PROGRAMS COULD BE MOVED FROM PURELY MAINTENANCE EFFORTS TO PROVIDING JOBS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR PALESTINIANS. CROWN PRINCE THOUGHT MORE MONEY COULD BE CHanneled INTO DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN COUNTRIES WHERE PALESTINIANS LIVED IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVES. HE WARNED HOWEVER

THAT LONG-STANDING ARAB ATTITUDES AGAINST SOLVING THE
PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BY RESETTLING THEM ALL IN AREAS
OUTSIDE OF PALESTINE MADE THIS A SENSITIVE PROPOSITION.

10. CROWN PRINCE THEN TOOK SENATOR AND PARTY
ON PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOUR OF AREAS WHERE A NEW
AMMAN "PENETRATOR" HIGHWAY AND SEWER DEVELOPMENT HAD
DISPLACED UP TO 40,000 PALESTINIANS FROM CAMPS
LYING IN ITS PATH. THESE HAD ALL BEEN RELOCATED
AND REHOUSED BY THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND CP SAID
HE THOUGHT THIS WAS AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF WHAT
COULD HAPPEN QUIETLY.

11. ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY SENATOR STONE AND PARTY
AND IS SUBJECT TO THEIR COMMENT AND REVISION. REQUEST TUNIS
TEL AVIV PASS CODEL STONE.
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PAGE 04 AMMAN 03075 011103Z

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